

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

October 6, 2006

## Message From County Executive Walker

*Last Thursday, I presented my 2007 Milwaukee County Budget. You can [click here](#) to view the budget. In my [budget address](#) to the Milwaukee County Board, I spoke of my vision of hope for Milwaukee County. Our challenges were considerable this year, with an almost \$90 million shortfall for 2007. My budget maintains vital services that Milwaukee County residents rely on. Milwaukee County's Paramedic program remains fully funded for 2007. The GAMP program, which provides a health care safety net for our neediest residents, is also funded in this budget.*

*Rather than simply close many of our aging pools in the county, my budget calls for a comprehensive aquatics plan that replaces out-of-date, underused pools with a system of splash pads and aquatic centers that parks districts across the country have embraced, and that residents will actually use.*

*I have been meeting with members of the board's Finance and Audit Committee this week and I am optimistic that we can work together to pass a budget for the good of all in Milwaukee County.*

**Scott**



## Art Show at the airport



On Tuesday, County Executive Walker, along with Cheryl Sensenbrenner, American Association of People With Disabilities Treasurer, opened an exhibit of art works created by people with disabilities. The exhibit, which is on display in the main concourse of Gen. Mitchell International Airport through October 31, will help promote Disability Awareness Month.

"This is an opportunity for the entire community, as well as visitors to Milwaukee County, to be inspired by the vision and the abilities of our neighbors with disabilities," said Walker. "The exhibit is a wonderful way to showcase their talents."

## Rainforest Night

The Mitchell Park Domes will feature "Rainforest Night" on Friday, October 13 from 6:00pm to 9:30pm. This special event gives attendees the opportunity to see and handle wildlife creatures and birds from the earth's rainforest regions. There will also be fresh tropical treats and ice cream. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-17 years, and free for children 5 and under. For more information, go to

[www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com).

## Walker, Barrett Work Together On Housing Initiative

County Executive Walker and Mayor Barrett have teamed up to address the serious problem of finding safe, affordable housing for people with mental illness.

The county and city will develop a joint plan to harness resources from federal, county, and municipal government, as well as non-profit agencies and private industry.

The plan includes three parts:

1. Immediate work to insure funding for housing through the federal government
2. Work Group – made up of county and city staff along with others - to work with those interested in developing affordable housing for those with chronic mental illness
3. Establishment of one agency (new or existing) to serve as the long-term focal point for the development of quality housing for people with mental illness

Walker has proposed a number of initiatives in his 2007 budget to commit resources to develop housing for the mentally ill.

These initiatives include appropriations of \$250,000 for additional staff and programs. Walker has also proposed using 50% of the proceeds from the Park East land sales deposited in the county's Affordable Housing Fund for permanent housing for persons with mental illness.

Walker and Barrett developed the plan at a meeting Tuesday at City Hall. The meeting was also attended by officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, representatives from several city and county departments and representatives of the Helen Bader Foundation.

This partnership is one of several that Walker and Barrett have initiated, including a joint web portal and shared mainframe computer resources, which have benefited both governments.

## Fall Golf Specials



The Milwaukee County Parks Department is offering a great way to get out and see the fall colors this weekend. The Fall Golf Specials are now in full swing at the county's many courses. These include specials on new discount cards and cart rentals. A round of golf is a great way to get some exercise and see the fall colors before the snow starts to fall. For more information on the fall golf packages, go to [www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com).

## Calendar of Events

### WALK FOR DIABETES

PLACE WHITNALL PARK  
DATE OCTOBER 8  
TIME 9:00AM

[WWW.DIABETES.ORG/WALK](http://WWW.DIABETES.ORG/WALK)

### FALLEN FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

PLACE MILWAUKEE FALLEN FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL  
711 WEST WELLS  
DATE OCTOBER 11  
TIME 11:00AM

### RAINFOREST NIGHT

PLACE MITCHELL PARK DOMES  
DATE OCTOBER 13  
TIME 6:00PM – 9:30PM

[WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM](http://WWW.COUNTYPARKS.COM)